

LLANGYNHAFAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL/CYNGOR CYMUNED LLANGYNHAFAL

COMMUNITY COUNCIL REPORT 2022/2023. www.llangynhafal.org.uk

Hello and welcome to all residents of Gellifor, Hendrerwydd, Llangynhafal and Llanychan who together form the Community/Parish of Llangynhafal.

Following the introduction of new legislation by the Welsh Government, the Community Council must prepare and publish a report (an annual report) about the Council's priorities, activities, and achievements during the past year. This is our first report which we hope you will find of interest.

GENERAL ISSUES – the Council meets formally on the last Wednesday evening of the month (except August and December) at the Community Centre, Gellifor. These are structured meetings with a full agenda. Anyone can attend to observe and there is an opportunity for public questions.

Your Community Councillors are as follows:

Cllrs Iona Pierce (Chair), Bryan Jones, Huw Jones, Kevin Shenton, Ian Jones, Iola Quinn, Paul Evans and Andy Mitchelmore.

Topics covered by the Community Council are varied and, in the main, are governed by legislation. Priority is given to matters raised by residents and arising from a consultation exercise, the following were identified by residents as areas for the Community Council to look into further:

*The need for improved street furniture *The need for a community playing field *Improvements to the community centre *Establishing community events *Establishing a community garden *The need for a Community Christmas tree *Problems relating to dog fouling and keeping the villages tidy *Better footpath signage *Establishing a calendar of activities *The poor condition of the roads *Affordable Housing.

The following paragraphs provide information on the main issues discussed over the last 12 months and previously:

COMMUNITY GARDEN PROJECT – the Community Garden continues to flourish thanks to the hard work of Iola Quinn and numerous volunteers, the garden winning the Denbighshire Best Community Garden Competition 2022.

After negotiating the release of the land with Denbighshire Housing, the Community Council has been able to access various grants towards the funding

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of garden furniture, equipment, plants etc and is currently in discussions with Welsh Water regarding the provision of running water to the site. We are also hoping to arrange garden waste collections through Denbighshire and we are looking to provide direction signs to help visitors and residents, who have not been to the garden, find their way.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING – this matter was looked into in some detail prior to the Covid Pandemic. A number of meetings were held with representatives from Grwp Cynefin Housing Association and Denbighshire, the main points being- *The need for persons to register their interest with Grwp Cynefin *The availability of land which remains a problem *The development of large affordable housing provision at Llanbedr, Llanfair and Llandyrnog where land had been specifically designated for this purpose *Whether provision for affordable housing would be made in Denbighshire’s new Local Development Plan (LDP) to be published during 2023/2024. Information on the new LDP is awaited.

DEFIBRILLATORS - we now have four defibrillators within the community situated at Gellifor School, Hendrerwydd Kiosk, the entrance to Llangynhafal Church and the Golden Lion Inn. We are currently looking into providing training sessions for residents on how to use the equipment, details of which will be published shortly. We are grateful to Tony Killow for his work in connection with obtaining and maintaining the equipment.

BUDGET 2022/2023 – The Council tax precept amounted to £6500.00 or £19.01 per Band D property. This was one of the lowest Community Council Tax demands within Denbighshire and included £2500.00 which the Council had to provide to cover possible election costs. The Council’s accounts are audited annually by an internal and external auditor and there were no adverse comments or recommendations made by them.

NAME SIGN AT COMMINS – historically, the area between Gellifor and Hendrerwydd is known as “Commins”, the name dating back many centuries to the time when the location was common land. The name Commins appears on the old maps but more recently the name has been omitted and there was a danger that it might disappear altogether.

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To avoid this happening, it was agreed, in consultation with residents, to contact Highways with a view to erecting a name sign on the approach to Commins from Gellifor, near to the community seat. After a number of site meetings this was agreed and the new name sign is now in place.

COMMUNITY SEATS – the Community Council has started a programme of maintenance work on the various seats around the community with the seat at Gellifor School bus stop being the first to have repair work carried out. We are currently reviewing the seat at Commins where the location has become wet and muddy. The possibility of digging out the grassed area and replacing it with stones/hard core is now being looked at.

SIGNS AND STREET FURNITURE AT CYFFION CROSSROADS, LLANGYNHAFAL – concern had been expressed regarding the large number of street furniture items at this location. A review was carried out and the Llangynhafal name sign was moved to opposite Gwalia on the approach to Llangynhafal.

HIGHWAY MATTERS – the Community Council is in regular communication with Denbighshire on a range of issues including complaints about the condition of roads and potholes. Some resurfacing work was carried out during the past 12 months but more work is needed. The Council will continue to press Highways regarding this matter.

MOEL FAMAU COUNTRY PARK/FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS – a large part of Llangynhafal is within the designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The Council has been working with Denbighshire Countryside Services to ensure that access via footpaths, lanes, gates, styles etc are not restricted to ensure that residents are able to obtain maximum enjoyment and benefit from the outstanding countryside on our doorstep. Progress has been made regarding improving footpaths across the community with kissing gates being installed to replace styles. The condition of Hwylfa Llwyn bridleway leading to Moel Fammau Country Park remains a priority with action having been taken to clear the stream of branches and debris.

GRASS CUTTING DURING THE SUMMER SEASON – arrangements were once again made with David Weyman to cut and maintain the larger grassed areas within the community together with the area around the community seats.

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This work has greatly enhanced the appearance of the community during the summer months.

CHRISTMAS TREE AND LIGHTS – arrangements were made by the Community Council to obtain, from Highways, access to the street lighting power system. The Christmas tree has now become an annual event and the Community Council is grateful to Kevin Shenton, Mike Quinn and in particular Paul Evans for their work in arranging for the tree and lights to be erected in the centre of Gellifor opposite the school.

DOG FOULING – to help overcome the problem of dog fouling, waste bag dispensers have been placed around the community and the Community Council is grateful to Kevin Shenton for his work in ensuring that the dispensers are kept fully stocked with bags purchased for this purpose.

COMMUNITY CENTRE – ownership of the community centre continues to rest with the Community Council with management issues being the responsibility of the Community Centre Committee. We were able to obtain mandatory and discretionary rate relief for the community centre which meant that no rates were payable during 2022/2023. The Community Centre Committee and the School are currently investigating improvements to the Community Centre following the receipt of grant funding.

IMPROVED INTERNET PROVISION – The Council has investigated the new Openreach “Fibre Community Partnership Programme” designed to bring fast and reliable internet connections to all within the community. It is understood that fibre installation work has now been carried out throughout the community and only a very small number of premises cannot obtain a fibre-based internet connection with some of these already on an upgrade plan.

COMMUNITY PLAYING FIELD – A feasibility study to explore the possibility of establishing a community playing field for sport and other activities has been carried out. All aspects were investigated including the availability of funding. Unfortunately, we have not been able to proceed with this project due to the lack of available land within the area. The school playing field remains available to children to use and we are grateful to the School Governors for their cooperation in this matter.

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OTHER ISSUES – In addition to the items already mentioned, other issues covered by the Council over the last 12 months include **consideration of planning applications** as they arise and financial matters including requests for financial assistance. The largest donation was to Llangynhafal Football Club towards the cost of hiring the playing field at Rhewl.

The Chair and Members of the Community Council.

29.03.2023